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## Songs for a winter's night

The Haliburton County Folk Society welcomed back local singer-songwriter Terra Lightfoot who performed several songs, including new tracks from her latest album, at Legion in Haliburton Saturday evening. Originally from Hamilton, Ont., Lightfoot now calls Haliburton County home. /ADAM FRISK Special to the *Echo*

# Dysart asks Haliburton vendors for $5 per market day

by **VIVIAN COLLINGS**
*Times Staff*

Haliburton Farmers' Market vendors still don't know where they'll be setting up their tents in a couple of months.

In December, the Haliburton County Farmers' Market Association (HCFMA) brought a letter to Dysart council asking for the market to be allowed back at their original location in Head Lake Park.

Council agreed, but under the condition that HCFMA pay $5,100 to the municipality for site maintenance, or each vendor pay $25 every Tuesday.

Another condition was to move the market from the usual 12 to 4 p.m. to a new time of 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., to which HCFMA agreed.

But, regarding the first condition, HCFMA returned to council on Jan. 23, stating in a letter, "While we are very anxious to return to Head Lake Park under a cooperative agreement with the municipality, we are unable to support the fee outlined in the motion."

They also asked for verification of past damages to justify the new annual fee in the letter.

"While we are aware of the odd tire track on very rainy days or perhaps damage to sprinklers, we have no record nor knowledge of any 'significant' damage that we have ever caused in our 11-year attendance in the park."

Dysart council chambers were filled to the brim that Tuesday while HCFMA

**see NEW page 3**


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# Dysart OKs company to monitor STR compliance

JAMES MATTHEWS

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

Dysart gave the nod to Granicus Canada Holdings to ensure short-term rental property owners comply with rules that will regulate the industry in Haliburton County.

The contract is the fruits of a recent Haliburton County request for proposals to monitor and ensure rental compliance solution for short-term rentals in each lower tier municipality.

Township council heard Jan. 23 that fees associated with Granicus' services would be fully recovered by STR licensing and registration fees.

Granicus offers an annual subscription service and the pricing model is driven by the volume of STRs to be monitored.

Dysart would pay an average of $43,688.17 annually over three years. Based on an estimated 515 STR properties in the municipality, the cost works out to about $85 per STR annually.

"The first year is going to be the most expensive because there's basically a setup cost and those type of things," said Karl Korpela, Dysart's chief building official.

The STR bylaw will be drafted with sufficient fees to cover Granicus' licensing and monitoring cost and the township's administrative costs and inspection fees.

Granicus will be responsible for surveillance monitoring of STR operators on vacation host websites.

They will handle registration and compliance monitoring. They will notify non-compliant STR operators of infractions and the resulting consequences and communicate with municipal staff about non-compliant STR operators.

Granicus will also be responsible for collecting the much-contested municipal accommodation tax (MAT). And they will follow up with hosts who are not remitting fees and notify municipalities of those delinquent hosts. The contract also entails that a phone line and online portal be established for customer service questions.

"They're going to be the ones taking in complaints, even after hours, and notifying the responsible person to act and deal with it," Korpela said.

It was made clear in the RFP that each municipality will be responsible for all required bylaw enforcement and inspections.

Korpela said it could take about six months for the county and Granicus to have everything set up and ready to go.

# STR bylaw is anti–business, anti–tourism, says Dysart operator

JAMES MATTHEWS

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

The proposed bylaw to govern the short-term rental of properties will hurt Dysart in the long run.

Dysart resident Alex Dagg owns properties north of Eagle Lake. One property is her residence and the other is a cottage bought for her adult children to use. Neighbours have used the second property when hosting many extended family members for events.

But she also offers the second property as a short-term rental (STR) when her children are not using it.

"Since I live next door, I keep a close eye on my guests and the property and regularly communicate with my neighbours about it," she said.

The cottage has also been used by visiting construction workers doing jobs in the area, she said.

"I have regular families book my property every year," Dagg said. "(They) shop in the area, go to the farmers' market, use the hiking trails.

"My place has really been a way for many more families to enjoy the beautiful lakes and the woods here. Those that can't afford their own place but would like to spend a week or two here."

She said 77 per cent of all accommodations in Haliburton County is provided by way of STRs. Families have been renting cottages in the area for generations.

"This is not new," Dagg said.

She said the typical Airbnb host in the county earns about $9,000 a year and rents for about 50 nights. Eight-five per cent of them own one property. Collectively, she said Airbnb hosts have generated $1-billion for the Ontario economy.

Although she said she supports regulations for STRs in the county, she feels the proposed bylaw is a huge over-reach, is extremely bureaucratic, and poses difficulties for her and others to comply. And, she said, complying with the regulations presents a great expense.

"It requires us to own our shoreline allowance for no obvious or discernible policy reason," Dagg said. "It requires onerous and time-consuming inspections, and a tax collection at a time when we are facing significant inflation, huge cost increases, and declining demand."

The new rules will require STR property owners to carry $2-million liability insurance policies. She questions the rationale behind that stipulation when owners already have $1-million liability policies.

Property owners are required to submit detailed floor plans to scale and detailed parking plans.

"Do I have to hire a planner, a designer, an architect to help me?" she said. "I don't know how to draw my building to scale."

She called the proposed bylaw anti-business and anti-tourism efforts. In the long run, she said the rules will end up hurting Dysart.

And she echoed a claim that's been made by other STR property owners: The proposed bylaw's enforcement will be difficult and costly for the county and its lower tier municipalities to enforce.

"Focus your attention on the properties where you get complaints," Dagg said. "Most of us are responsible hosts and contribute to the community.

"Design a bylaw that solves the problem host in the problem properties. Don't design a bylaw that most of us can't afford to comply with and then you can't afford to enforce."

Everybody pays property taxes, she said.

"As designed, (the bylaw) is really anti-business and anti-tourism," she said. "The draft bylaw is unworkable, expensive, and won't solve your problem."

As part of the STR system of regulation, the county proposed a municipal accommodation tax (MAT) to help cover costs of regulation and to go into tourism promotion.

But Dagg said STR operators can't afford to raise their rates four per cent to offset the MAT. Especially when the economy is difficult and bookings are down.

"I know that some of us have asked you to delay implementation of this bylaw," she said. "If you're not prepared to do that, we understand that. But at least please make some amendments (to the proposed bylaw)."

Mayor Murray Fearrey said municipalities have a difficult time determining which STR property is a commercial enterprise and which are small-scale owners like Dagg and some others.

"In the bylaw you're going to require us to register," Dagg said. "So you're going to know who we are. You're going to have that information. If I come and register and I own 15 properties, … you're going to know that I have 15 properties."

# Paudash Lake property owner disputes STR operator

JAMES MATTHEWS

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

A Highlands East resident wishes reality conforms with details in a presentation to township council in December by a short-term rental operator.

Cheryl Quantrill owns a property on Paudash Lake. She appeared before council during its regular meeting Jan. 16 to refute some of the claims made by Elizabeth Oakley, the operator of a short-term rental (STR) property called The River's Edge on the banks of the Irondale River.

Oakley also volunteers as a community leader for an Airbnb social media members' group. She told township council during its Dec. 12 regular meeting that she bought the property a little more than a year ago and that, as with 80 per cent of Airbnb hosts, it is her primary residence.

Oakley said most operators earn as little as $9,000 annually and the proposed licensing fees, municipal accommodation tax (MAT) and other costs that go with the regulations will put operators at a disadvantage.

Oakley said the MAT is a cash-grab by municipalities to compensate for annual budget shortfalls and the requirement to purchase the property's shoreline allowance is burdensome to operators.

"We are not speculators, nor are we absentee hosts," Oakley said in December. "We take great pride in welcoming people who have never been to Haliburton County."

Oakley acknowledged that there have been careless operators that have permitted loud parties, fireworks, parking complaints, and trash left by patrons.

Quantrill said she believes Oakley said in December that she rents her property with a two-person capacity.

"Ms. Oakley's business sounds to be a very accountable and acceptable arrangement for any neighbor to tolerate," Quantrill said.

But, apparently, that's a fairy tale for some neighbours to other STRs.

Quantrill said she's had a STR property directly next door to her since summer of 2022. That property was brought in July 2022 and was advertised for rent the following month.

"Their Airbnb advertisement listed their three dwelling properties to be available for 16-plus renters," she said. "The principal dwelling on the property is about 1,000 square feet at best, with two bedrooms.

> ***"Their Airbnb advertisement listed their three dwelling properties to be available for 16 plus renters."***
>
> — Cheryl Quatrill, Paudash Lake property owner

"They have another cabin which has three bedrooms, and a third cabin with one bedroom. The three-bedroom cabin has a half bath, but no shower."

Quantrill countered the assertion that a typical STR operator makes $9,000 a year from the property. And she looked no further than the operator's advertising for proof.

The Airbnb STR next door to her was offered for $915 per night for five nights from Sept. 2-7, 2023. Attached was a $300 cleaning fee and a $777.71 Airbnb service fee. Quantrill calculated taxes for that term to have been $633.75.

That's $6,282.46 for five nights in September.

"July and August rates are higher," she said. "There are reviews on the site's online posting that repeatedly stated it's the perfect place for large groups.

"I will argue that it would need a large group sharing these costs to be able to afford such a rental."

Rather than being a tax-grab to fill budgetary needs, Quantrill argues that the MAT funds will be exhausted by municipalities paying bylaw enforcement officers sent to STRs and initiating on-site inspections at properties.

"I will argue that going forward it will likely be necessary to initiate several calls to bylaw officers," she said.

Quantrill said the effort to regulate STRs was initiated in 2018 I believe. Her neighbours bought their property in 2022.

"It concerns and confuses me as to why newer owners did not research the area and the potential plans in place for STR controls, so that they were prepared to comply with what the future could mean for their business," she said.

# Haliburton County chooses its deputy warden

JAMES MATTHEWS

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

Haliburton County's deputy warden is Highlands East Mayor Dave Burton.

The two-horse race for deputy warden Jan. 24 was between Coun. Burton and Coun. Bob Carter, the mayor of Minden Hills.

Carter threw his hat in the ring in December in a bid for the warden's chair. But Liz Danielsen, the mayor of Algonquin Highlands, was returned to that post.

Carter said there are a number of issues that need ironing out following adoption of the short-term rental bylaw. In no order of importance, those issues are transportation, housing, and health care.

"These are all files that I have been up to speed on and I have been working in and want to work more on," he said. "I think those are going to be the big challenges for the county in the upcoming period and, certainly, before the end of this term."

Working as deputy warden will enable him to work more in depth on those issues, he said.

"Those are the important areas I want to work on, I want to focus on, as well as keeping out finances as controlled as possible," Carter said.

Burton said there's much to be done to finish some of the plans that have been in the works for the county for the past five years.

"I'm looking forward to getting some of that put to bed," he said.

With all the projects, all the irons in the fire, Burton said he's willing to help out in any way he can.

"I'd like us just to move forward together as a team," he said.

# New fee still a 'big ask' for vendors, say HCFMA

**from page 1**

members and supporters anxiously awaited a new decision by council.

"First of all, we have had some thought about this, and although there's a big concern we're trying to put you out of business, we're not," said Dysart Mayor Murray Fearrey. "We have two sites we've offered you, free and clear. The first is Rotary Park Beach, I know you don't like it, and the other is the boardwalk."

Knowing that the market desires to return back to their original location, the mayor stated a new condition for vendors.

"We have arrived at $5 per unit, so in other words, say it's May, and you have 12 [vendors], that's $60 for a day. And if you have 40 in July, that would be $200 for a day. And if it rains on a Tuesday and you didn't participate, it wouldn't be anything," Fearrey said.

He noted the substantial difference between $25 and $5 per vendor, per market day.

"I guess where we're coming from here is I know everybody thinks it should be free, everything should be free by the way, but it isn't," he said. "Nobody's trying to take advantage of the farmers. We know the importance."

HCFMA had highlighted other organizations that use the park, free of charge.

"First of all, [the market] is for profit. I know you say it's not for profit, but it is for profit, because the people that are in there sell [goods and make money]. All the other groups that are in there that you mention, like the boat races, bring everything in and take everything out, and they contribute to the hospital. So they're giving to the community," Fearrey said. "Rotary are in there, they do a lot of good, and they contribute to the community. We haven't see that from the Farmers' Market, so we'll be looking at everybody in there and making sure that we treat everybody the same, and I hope with this proposal it's doable."

To represent the association, board member Angel Taylor offered comments to council.

"$5 per market is well over a 25 per cent increase in [the vendors'] fees for the season," Taylor said. "This is a big ask from our vendors. You used an example of $800. It is very rare that we would have a vendor taking home that kind of money, and I speak as a past vendor."

Taylor said she couldn't make a decision on behalf of the rest of the HCFMA board and market vendors at that time without further conversation.

"The other thing I want to comment on is it's wonderful that people may contribute to the hospital etcetera, but I really strongly feel that the contribution we bring by attracting thousands of tourists to this community that go in and spend their dollars is absolutely not to be underestimated, and I feel that it tends to be overlooked," Taylor said. "I read from the letter we brought in at our delegation in December that some of the local businesses actually laid off people. They had had people in the summer when we were there, and no longer employed them, because [the market] being off to the side meant that they no longer had the level of income they had before."

She said even though the market may contribute to the community in a different way, it should still be considered as a positive for the community.

"We were trying to," said Fearrey. "The other thing that happens, we have it as 'go to town Tuesday', so all the merchants have sales, so one feeds off the other."

He noted playing a role in bringing the farmers' market to the park in the first place.

"We'll give this consideration. We'll get back to this at some point, have another discussion, and go from there," he said.

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# New tax on STRs is unfair, say operators

JAMES MATTHEWS

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

Some short-term rental property owners cry foul that they have to collect a proposed four per cent municipal accommodation tax when other lodging providers won't be required to do so.

As part of the proposed bylaw to regulate short-term rentals (STR), Haliburton County plans to attach a municipal accommodation tax (MAT) to Airbnb hosts. Money from the tax is to go toward implementing and enforcing the STR bylaw and to tourism promotion.

There's been a chorus of STR property owners voicing their disapproval of the proposed bylaw in general and the MAT in particular in recent weeks.

Regular commercial accommodators don't want to add another tax to their patrons. But it's been said that STR operators aren't given a choice in the matter.

Dysart Mayor Murray Fearrey said two things have happened.

"There's been a tremendous influx on cottage rentals," he said. "Tremendous. A lot bigger than, I think, we realized. Thousands. These people come in, spend a week here.

"They use the roads. They use the landfill. They use the facilities and they walk away and we never see them again."

He said there are few commercial accommodators left in business.

"And they've been pushed out by cottage rentals," Fearrey said. "No question."

Regulating STRs isn't a simple task, he said. The county has been chasing it for four years.

"Has anybody been participating very much in the last four years?" Fearrey said. "It's all in the last four months. Why do we wait until the very end to start putting our ideas forward."

"A lot of us participated in the consultations, but we didn't see the draft bylaw itself until a few months ago," said Alex Dagg, a STR operator who lobbied against the proposed bylaw.

## Life in the fast lane

Worlds collided between two of Haliburton's sports teams on Wednesday, Jan. 24 when the Haliburton Red Wolves, the county's special Olympics team, were joined by the Haliburton County Huskies for a day of bowling at Fast Lane in Minden. /TIM YANO Special to the *Echo*

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## HCSA selects charity of the year

For the second year in a row, the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association has selected Haliburton Highlands Health Services as its charity of the year. The HCSA will donate one dollar per hour trail grooming time on the Rail Trail to the hospital's Diabetes Network. Monies raised will go towards the purchase of a doppler, a device that measures blood flow helping those with diabetes recieve improved care. This is the fourth winter the HCSA has supported a local charity. Earlier recipients were the Kelly Shires Breast Cancer Foundation and the Minden Food Bank. Snowmobilers and others will see a mobile billboard in tow behind a trail groomer this winter on the Rail Trail, HCSA's busiest route. The Haliburton County Snowmobile Association is a volunteer owned and managed not for profit maintaining 370 kilometers of trails linking our communities. We deliver up to 14.7 million dollars in economic activity per season. The HCSA is a proud partner in the 183 member Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Club. /Submitted by the HCSA

# County pivots to a new way to ink this year's budget

JAMES MATTHEWS
*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

The first draft of Haliburton County's capital and operating budget this year has a tax increase of almost eight per cent.

The total levy required to maintain county services in 2024 is $23,621,264. That's a $2.04-million levy increase over 2023 and represents an increase of $18.41 for every $100,000 assessed property value.

That means, according to the current draft, rate payers will face a 7.8 per cent tax increase over last year.

That's down from an initial 10.44 per cent tax increase when the county's senior managers began discussion of this year's expenditures.

Andrea Robinson, the county's corporate services director, delivered the budget's first draft to council when it met Jan. 24.

Preparing the county's 2024 operating and capital budget was a different chore than previous years because of changes in the province and the county in recent years.

Gary Dyke, the county's CAO, said the work done by his predecessor, Mike Rutter, made his transition into the role smoother. But it was a task to identify existing areas of growth that are necessary to sustain the level of service.

More importantly, county staff have been working to address questions of future capital investment needs of roads and bridges.

"But also on the operational side," he said. "How we evolve the operations of the (county) to meet up with the new demands and new regulations we are facing going forward."

One of the greatest budgetary challenges this year was the oppressive inflation rates that have ballooned over the last few years. Some of the things bought by the county such as gasoline and construction materials saw inflation rates of 16 to 20 per cent.

"They were making it quite difficult for us to move forward with our budget," Dyke said. "It's very important for us to look at what makes up the budget and how we go forward with the budget."

To that end, staff developed a new format that moved the budget away from reading spread sheets toward a more narrative means that describes components of the spending plan.

"One of the most important things, if not the most important thing we do on any given cycle is making sure that everybody understands what we're talking about," he said. "Getting away from accountant terminology."

The 2024 budget is broken down to overarching themes: Base level of service, things that need adjusting, line items preapproved by council, catchup items, and growth items.

"We are also looking at dealing with things around capital budget forecasting," Dyke said.

There's a prioritization of spending within the budget, he said.

"There's a lot of things we either had in the budget or would like to have in the budget but, from a prioritization standpoint, there are other things that need to be done now versus later," he said.

"That's kind of the balance that we have. It's not that we're abandoning certain things. We're actually prioritizing when that spending happens."

Councillor Murray Fearrey, the mayor of Dysart, said he's happy with the new approach.

"It's sure nice to get the paper that you can look at and rationalize other than a bunch of figures," he said.

Coun. Bob Carter, the mayor of Minden Hills, asked about the means used to determine the size of the budget's monetary slices.

Robinson said those are percentages of the tax levy based on figures provided by departmental senior staff.

"That's their portion of the levy," she said.

"That's their portion of the levy based on what you've included in the budget," Carter said.

"Correct," Robinson said. "Currently the net revenue and expenses for each division within the 2024 budget right now. That is what would be required from the levy for each one of those."

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A doe gives herself a scratch. by Tammy Nash

## Editorial

# Aging; an intergenerational process

*vivian collings*

WE'RE ALL getting older by the day, the minute, the second.

In conversation, the word "aging" is usually reserved for older generations. Aging, to them, shows itself more prominently in adverse ways.

But we're all going through it, regardless of how it positively or negatively affects us as individuals or our generation.

It's the most inevitable process of life that we know and experience.

On Saturday, I attended Aging Together as Community's first conference.

Nearly 200 gathered in the ballroom of the Pinestone with others tuned in on Zoom for the sold-out event, appropriately entitled Inspiring Creativity and Empowering Change.

In our community, the median age is almost 60.

Thats 20 years older than the province as a whole.

Given this information, I'm sure you can imagine the average age of those who attended the conference.

And although it's so important for the older generations to learn about the topics highlighted, it's equally, if not more important for the younger generations to know, too.

ATAC's goal was to take a sustainable, intergenerational approach to the topic of aging.

I was there as a speaker, with a few other young adults, on behalf of Rotaract Haliburton Highlands.

But I wish there were more of us in that age bracket there to listen, learn, and observe the other presentations of the day.

Topics like long term care homes, MAID, and fall prevention may seem like "out of sight, out of mind" issues to "us kids", but a few minutes in to the conference proved that these are so important for us all to know about.

Not only will we all be at that stage one day, most of us have loved ones there or close to there.

The state of Ontario's health care for seniors isn't a problem for *us*, but it is.

It is because yes, we will be there someday, but we're also the caregivers. The changemakers. The advocates.

We're aging together as community.

Knowledge is power, and I learned so much from that day.

Dr. Pat Armstrong was the keynote speaker, giving a presentation called Putting Life into Years.

She's a distinguished research professor of sociology at York University with a special focus on health services, specifically senior health services.

"Our purpose is to put life into years, not years into life," she said. "It's important to understand that care is a relationship between everyone involved."

She spoke about how the most important elements of care, such as joy, can't be measured.

In a system focused on numbers and figures, it's no wonder joy can be difficult to find in understaffed long term care homes.

"But joy is possible when people have a sense of belonging."

The same sentiments were shared when Pat Bradley spoke about using the Butterfly Model in our long term care homes in Haliburton and Minden.

This model focuses on care for those with dementia by creating a space that caters to the emotional wellbeing of residents.

If this is your first time learning about Aging Together as Community, I'd like to urge you to learn more about them and perhaps attend a public meeting, no matter what generation you're in.

Because we are all aging, together.

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# Trip of a lifetime

*sharon lynch*

WHAT COULD go wrong? As Blake tucked a pair of socks into his overnight bag, he figured everything had been looked after. A quick trip to Alberta to see his granddaughter Sara working at a ski resort was something he had been looking forward to all winter. But the stars had not aligned to make it happen until now. He refused to let a slight cold stop him this time.

He was sure he and his son had thought of everything. Actually Kevin, his son, had made all the arrangements. All Blake had to do was show up at the house and let the younger man take over. Ah – the upside of being a senior.

The drive to the airport had been a pleasant catch-up: until a transport truck slammed into Kevin's right rear bumper as he pulled in front of it. After a moment of sheer panic, they assessed the car's condition. Fortunately, despite its appearance, the vehicle was still driveable, and so after a long wait to have the accident processed, the two men finally continued on to their overnight hotel.

Except Kevin couldn't remember which hotel he had booked. As they walked into the first lobby, Kevin noted it didn't seem right. And sure enough, the one he had booked was about twenty minutes away. Upon arrival at this second and correct location, father and son were hoping their run of bad luck had ended. It helped that this desk clerk pointed out his name tag. It read "Lucky".

After hearing Kevin's tale of woe so far, Lucky produced a wide roll of duct tape, and Kevin proceeded to tape his damaged fender into place as a temporary fix. Then father and son retired for a short sleep before an early morning wake up. But only after a late dinner in the hotel's restaurant during which several glasses of beer were consumed.

The Toronto airport was its usual crowded chaotic self, but the plane trip was uneventful. Blake was pleasantly surprised by the Calgary airport: clean, calm and colourful. But his cold was getting worse. So he was forced to spend the first day in bed. A slow recovery for the next few days dampened his spirits somewhat but he carried on. The mountain scenery made it worthwhile.

Blake had never seen the mountains. While Kevin drove, Blake watched the open landscape roll by, as the snow-capped edifices grew closer and closer. He was mesmerized. Why haven't I come here before, he asked himself.

The next few days saw a flurry of activity as father, daughter and grandfather tried to squeeze everything into a very short time frame. It was all new to Blake, and he felt like a true tourist, looking in stores and watching his fellow travellers. People from all over the world strolled well-maintained streets. And above them snowy mountains gazed down in impressive majesty.

Unfortunately they missed their flight home. Call it dumb luck, fatigue, time changes or whatever – it happened. So swallowing the price tag, they booked flights for later in the day and headed out.

But their adventure wasn't yet over. After hugs and a wave goodbye to Sara, Kevin proceeded to get lost on the way back to the Calgary airport. It had started when he went in search of a gas station to top up the rental car's tank. They ended up going in circles in the suburbs. Weeks later, back in Ontario, Blake was told by an ex-Calgarian that the Calgary suburbs were notorious for their confusion.

However they made it. Somehow Kevin got them out of the maze of streets, they caught their flight back and the damaged car still managed to get them home. Upon hearing all that happened on the trip, someone asked Blake if he would do it again. His response was immediate. Absolutely- but without a cold, a collision, confusion and missed flight. If it hadn't been for those minor annoyances, it would have been a perfect trip. But even with those annoyances, the mountains and his granddaughter made it all worthwhile.

# points of view

## The strong, silent type

LAST SUNDAY, Jenn and I had an idyllic afternoon. She was stretched out on the couch immersed in a book and enjoying a cup of tea. I was sharing the small chair with our dog Rosie and our cat Mumbles and also reading quietly – but only because, apparently, no one wants to hear you sound out words anymore.

This peaceful scene was quickly dissipated when our other cat Maggie jumped on Jenn's chest and put her face right up to Jenn's nose. Now, at this point, you might be thinking that it could have been worse. Maggie, after all, is a cat, and, in my experience at least, in situations like this cats are like coins – you either get heads or tails.

Jenn loves Maggie dearly, though, so she was quite pleased to be getting the attention. But then all that changed.

"Oh my God," Jenn said. "Maggie has the most horrible breath! I think we might need to take her to the veterinarian to get her teeth looked at. This smells just like last time when she had that rotten tooth… It's awful."

*steve galea*

**Loon Tales**

I looked at this from a distance and merely chuckled. Meanwhile, Rosie, who possesses the incredible sense of smell that all dogs do, turned her head towards me, sniffed, and then quickly vacated the chair we were sharing for parts unknown. Mumbles, a cat who has been through countless litter box experiences, also looked at me, and I swear, shook his head, and left too.

Yes, the horrible smell had not emanated from Maggie. But, in my defense, we had consumed a lentil-based soup earlier in the day.

So, there I was left with a horrible moral dilemma. Do I confess that the terrible smell was from me? Or do I just let it pass and allow Maggie to get blamed for what was arguably something that, if done outside, might have been labeled an environmental disaster?

I carefully considered the options.

On the plus side, I would have gotten away with the perfect crime, and this would have eventually inspired me to write a detective story about it based on a true story. I even had a tentative title, *The Silence of the Hams*.

On the downside, doing so would mean that we would be taking Maggie to the vet and possibly having her run the risk of unnecessary oral surgery, or at the very least a battery of unpleasant tests.

So, for the second time that afternoon, I chose to be silent.

I won't lie to you, it felt good to take Maggie down a notch. Because one of our two cats is not exactly great at burying their litter box offerings, and based on the way Mumbles digs up the house plants, I've got a pretty good idea which one it is.

Oh sure, I was carrying a little guilt. I mean, I am not normally dishonest with Jenn about these things, mostly because it is futile when it is just her and me in the room.

I guess that is the reason, I finally fessed up, later that night.

Jenn actually left me no choice. It turned out she was serious about calling the vet in the morning and setting up an appointment as soon as possible. Unfortunately, that's where me being honest didn't help either.

"Not so fast," I said. "It only happened once, right?"

"Yes, but can you guarantee it won't happen again?" she asked.

"No," I replied uncomfortably.

Ironically, that's what forced me to confess. Plus, she showed me the last vet bill.

The Principles of an Economic Charter of Rights

## Canada's economic pillars are on shaky ground

Canadians are feeling increasingly pessimistic about their financial well-being – and for good reason.

A new national survey from Pollara released last week confirmed that nearly one out of every two Canadians said they expect their household income to drop this year, with a majority of Canadians saying they are "worried" about their personal finances.

What's keeping Canadians up at night?

According to the survey, it's the high cost of groceries, which is taking a bigger and bigger bite out of everyone's paycheque. Many mothers and fathers throughout the country go to bed every night worried about having enough money to feed their families. That should never happen in a country as rich as Canada.

But it's not just higher grocery bills eating into the take-home pay of most Canadians.

Higher taxes are also making Canadians poorer. A whole slew of new taxes are scheduled to take effect this year, including higher taxes for Employment Insurance and the Canada Pension Plan, as well as added taxes on gasoline and home heating.



*frank stronach*

**Principles**

If all those extra taxes weren't bad enough, we got news last week that the quarterly federal debt payment in Canada hit an all-time high. According to Statistics Canada, Ottawa spent over $11 billion in the third quarter of the current fiscal year.

In plain terms, it means that ten cents out of every dollar of revenue the government collects is now going to pay interest on the debt. The national debt is a runaway freight train heading for the cliff – and few people are sounding the alarm. The worst part is that we have no plan in place for tackling the debt.

When you add all of these factors together, on top of a chronically feeble economy, it's hardly surprising that Canadians are growing poorer and poorer year by year.

And the reason why is that Canada's economic fundamentals are all on shaky ground.

As we head into the new year, deteriorating consumer confidence and lower consumer spending will hurt small business the most. It seems that small business always gets the short end of the stick.

When it comes to taxation or regulation or economic policies, the rules are almost always slanted in favour of big business. And yet it's small business that shoulders most of the load when it comes to creating jobs and developing new products and technologies. It's baffling that such a large, fundamental chunk of our economy is routinely neglected.

We need to create a more level playing field that unshackles small business and gives them the opportunity to flourish. And we need to firm up the other pillars of our economy so that Canadians can enjoy higher living standards.

A national economic charter of rights and responsibilities would accomplish this. The charter would require government to pay down the debt over twenty years, reduce spending by a specific percentage each year, and cut red tape. It would also require the government to reform our tax system by making it simpler, more transparent, and fairer. In short, it would establish the strong, solid foundation necessary for our economy to grow.

An economic charter would also ignite our economy by giving millions of Canadians the chance to participate in profit sharing, by removing income tax and reducing the regulatory burden on small business so they can thrive and grow, creating new jobs and new wealth that will benefit all Canadians.

Until we shore up our crumbling economic pillars, the vast majority of Canadians can expect living standards to continue to erode.

Pollara Survey Sources: https://www.pollara.com/economic-outlook-2024-canadas-post-covid-economic-malaise-continues/

https://www.pollara.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Pollara-Economic-Outlook-2024.pdf

BMO Survey Source: https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/nearly-a-third-of-canadians-plan-to-cut-spending-in-2024-over-cost-of-living-concerns-bmo-survey-887285198.html

Higher Taxes Source: https://www.taxpayer.com/media/NYTC-Report-CTF-2024.pdf

Parliamentary Budget Office Source: https://distribution-a617274656661637473.pbo-dpb.ca/7590f619bb5d3b769ce09bdbc7c1ccce75ccd8b1bcfb506fc601a2409640bfdd

Record high debt sources: https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/240109/dq240109d-eng.htm

https://nationalpost.com/news/politics/interest-costs-for-federal-debt-soar-to-new-highs

Fraser Institute Source: https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/growing-debt-burden-for-canadians-2024.pdf

*Frank Stronach is the founder of Magna International Inc., one of Canada's largest global companies, and was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame.*

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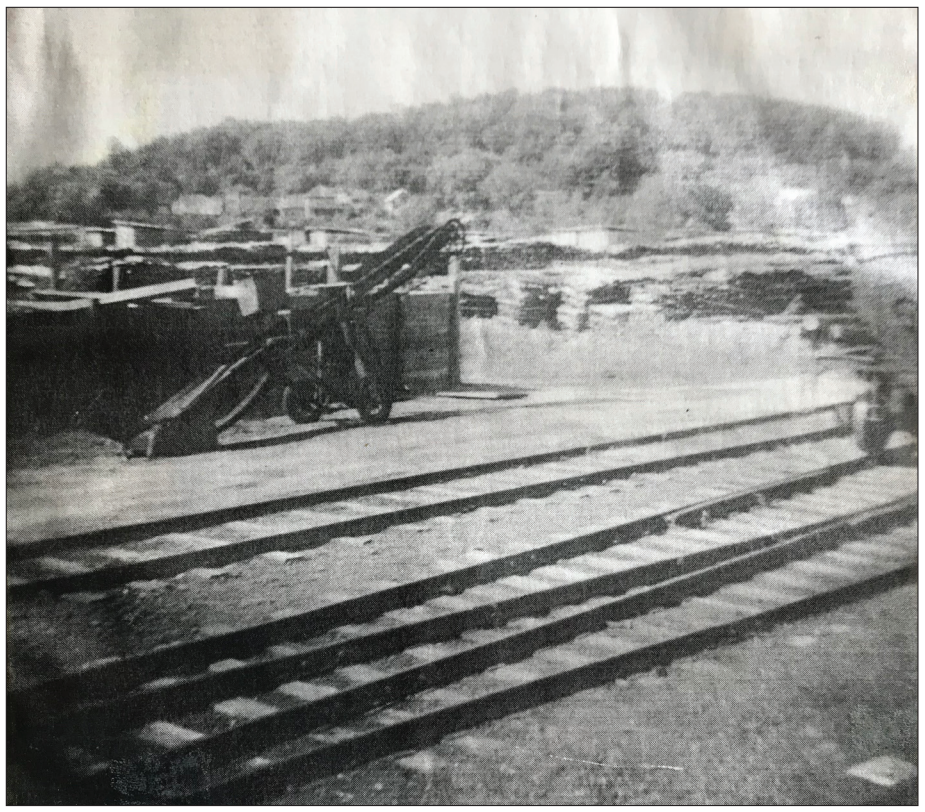

## pic *of the* past

This week's Pic of the Past takes us back to the year 1957 when lumbering was the main industry in Haliburton County. This was taken at the present Head Lake Park when that area was the scene of a lot of activity with the sawmill in operation. The train came into Haliburton in those days and lumber was piled into the boxcars to be transported to other centres. Notice the cordwood piled row after row. /FILE

letters to the editor

# Support needed for farmers' market

**To the Editor,**

As a faithful Farmers' Market attendee over the years, and in view of the recent controversy regarding Dysart Council's plans to impose fees to the Haliburton County Farmers' Market in a return to Head Lake Park, I find charging any fee out of touch with reality.

A prime example comes from the results of a survey, conducted by HCFM and other Farmers' Markets in Ontario, which states that the majority do not pay any fees to their local municipality. In one case (Newmarket Farmers' Market), Newmarket provides the town square for free and sponsors their Farmers' Market to the tune of $3,000 each year. I think Newmarket gets it.

Any proposed fee would add to the cost of approximately 40 vendors who already pay HCFM a seasonal participation rate of $425. Whether it's an annual fee of $4200 or $5 a vendor, per occasion, both the need and the intent are extremely questionable. The mayor has been quoted as saying that council will consider implementing fees for other events on a case-by-case basis. One is led to question just what the deciding factors will be, and will this be a transparent and fair process or will it be at the whim of the mayor and council?

The significant decrease in traffic at Rotary Park Beach last year resulted in most Tuesday markets being noticeably empty, compared to previous years in Head Lake Park. Vendor sales were off by as much as 30% and, according to the BIA, this had a corresponding impact on many retail businesses and restaurants in Haliburton Village.

These are compelling facts and solid reasons for Council to forego any proposed fee for a return to Head Lake Park.

The Farmers' Market, in most people's opinion, is not only a great opportunity to showcase our homegrown products but, in addition, it is an integral part of boosting the local economy and attracting visitors to the Highlands. The Farmers' Market should be given our full support, without strings attached.

**Dave Allen**
**Haliburton**

# See you soon

EMILY STONEHOUSE

*Staff Reporter*

I've been keeping a secret.

Well, as much of a secret as you can when you have a very public-facing job and are active on social media. So really, not much of a secret.

But some of you may not know.

I haven't been alone in my stories for the past nine months. When I've gone to town halls and summer fairs and holiday concerts, I've brought a friend with me.

He's been pretty quiet; really only making his presence known with a few swift kicks to the ribs, a growing belly, and a noticeable increase in washroom visits. But for the most part, he's been a pretty happy camper.

And in a few short hours/days/weeks (yes, we've hit that point of uncertainty on this journey), he will be joining me in the daylight.

To be bringing a child into this world; a world where we have cruelty and famine and wars and sexism and bullies and just a whole lot of questions that may never be answered; it doesn't always feel good. It often feels scary. Weird. Maybe even crazy.

And to do it as a woman? To make the choice of having a child, knowing full well that in whatever capacity I am doing it, it will change the trajectory of my life forever. I will be removing myself from certain roles in the community, stepping away from this job I have poured my heart and soul into, and taking time to not only nurture and grow a healthy child, but to simultaneously nurture and grow myself. That's no easy feat.

It's not easy to step away. Over the past year with the *Minden Times* and the *Haliburton Echo*, I have watched our communities evolve, change, and grow. I have witnessed joy, uncertainty, sadness, connections, warmth, and love. I have met people who are changing our world, and written stories on people who have left it, but not before making their mark on the hearts of so many. I have seen new businesses open; the sparkle in their eyes and the hope for the future, and I have watched businesses close their doors for good; feeling too tired to even lift a towel to toss.

I've seen changes.

And that's all this is. A change. For now. If our community can evolve, change, and grow, then so can I.

I am leaving the paper in perfectly good hands. Thomas Smith will be stepping into the role of editor of the *Minden Times*, and a writer for the *Haliburton Echo* for the next year, and with it, he brings a new spin to the paper, and a thirst for showcasing the stories of our town.

I'll be back eventually. You may even see me dabble a little here and there, while I'm taking the time to focus on my growing family.

And this little human who has joined me on this journey; who has already quietly attended town halls and summer fairs and holiday concerts, he will be so lucky to come into a community that is built on resilience, on support, on connections. Knowing that, makes it all seem less scary. Less weird. And definitely less crazy.

I can't wait to see all your friendly faces again, but this summer, I won't have a notebook and a camera hanging on my shoulder. Instead, it'll be a little boy propped on my hip, with a sparkle in his eye for all the magic our community has to offer.

I'll see you soon.

# Hello Haliburton

THOMAS SMITH

*Staff Reporter*

I have big shoes to fill. Emily Stonehouse will be going on maternity leave soon and I will be stepping in as her replacement as editor and journalist for the *Minden Times* and *Haliburton Echo*.

My name is Thomas Smith.

While I grew up in Bowmanville, I have always been deeply connected to Minden. My grandparents moved to Minden 20 years ago from the city. I spent my summers here swimming in Twelve Mile Lake, attending a Bible camp on South Lake Road, eating Kawartha Dairy ice cream, swimming in the Gull River, and dipping my feet in the refreshing waters of Ritchie Falls.

Minden has always been a second home for me and my family. This was quite literal for the beginning of my life, as my family owned a home in Lochlin.

Catching grasshoppers in the baseball diamond and playing at Lochlin Community Centre are memories that have stuck with me throughout my life. Even recently, hearing about the state of Lochlin Community Centre hurts my soul. However, I am certain that the community will heal, and the love that we have for Lochlin Community Centre will keep it, in one form or another, a landmark of Lochlin. Sadly, due to unforeseen circumstances, we were forced to sell our house in Lochlin.

However, during the pandemic, my family returned. They decided to move from Bowmanville to a house on Bobcaygeon Road in Minden. I like to think of myself as a transplanted local, with my roots being firmly set for many, many years. I love Haliburton County and the communities that live here.

To learn some things about me, I attended the University of Guelph for the past six years. While in University, I have written for student publications, written biographies on female Victorian authors published through Oxford University Press, published a radio play, and honed my love and craft for all things literary, historical, and theatrical.

Recently, I have graduated with a Master's degree in history with a thesis project involving creating a virtual reality video game based on pageant celebrations of London, England in the 1600s.

Prepare yourselves for a year of articles that dig deep in local histories, and we can learn things about the history of our beautiful community together. I hope to raise the volume of marginalized voices and highlight the wonderful businesses and characters that call Haliburton County home.

When I am not writing, taking photos, or hunting the latest scoop, you can find me fishing on the beautiful lakes and shopping at my favorite businesses such as Thrift Warehouse, Mixtape Vintage, Russell Red Records, and the Little Tart.

My happy place is on a serene walk along Minden's boardwalk or when I am petting my cat, Leyla. I love all types of music, ranging from Weird Al Yankovic to heavy metal (wear your ear protection kids!).

I realize that as a newcomer to Haliburton County, some of you may not have met me already, but I am beyond excited to become closer with my community. If you see me in the area, do not be a stranger to say hi, chat me up, or send me your ideas for the hottest scoop.

My door is always open and welcomes you in. You can also reach me through email at thomas@haliburtonpress.com.

Thank you for allowing me to be a voice for the community. Much love.

# October 2023 Year in Review

A group of Orange Shirt wearers walk in Head Lake Park on Saturday, Sept. 30 for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to honour Residential School survivors and those who didn't make it home. The walk was organized by the Haliburton County Youth Hub. /TIM YANO

The boys switched out their blue and white jerseys for pink on Saturday, Oct. 28 for the annual Pink in the Rink game to raise funds and awareness for those battling breast cancer. /VIVIAN COLLINGS

## Fleming student residence breaks ground

While the project has been in talks for years, fencing popped up in Glebe Park in October, with signs detailing the Haliburton Campus student residence; slated for a 2025 opening.

The accommodations will be split into two buildings, with a total of 47 beds spread out over three stories, and will be a mixture of single, double, and accessible rooms. Van Parys noted that they are in the midst of unpacking the logistics surrounding staffing at the facility, but has confirmed that there will be staff support available on-site.

## Zilstra wins Highlander of the Year

When David Zilstra was announced as the Highlander of the Year during the annual Haliburton County Chamber of Commerce Awards on Oct. 20, no one was surprised. Zilstra is seen around the community in everything from Highlands Summer Festival productions to behind the scenes at the Haliburton Highlands Hospital Foundation.

Everyone knows him, but each from a different context. "It would be fair to say that few people are as committed to the Haliburton Highlands as David Zilstra is," read the first line from his letter of nomination. "For nearly twenty years, David has been working tirelessly behind the scenes in Haliburton County, serving on a variety of boards, committees, service clubs and more."

## Gerald McKnight passes away

Gerald passed away at the age of 72 at Hyland Crest in Haliburton. He had been living his last few years at the facility, and received care, compassion, and patience from the team.

Having no known family, to Gerald, Community Living and Haliburton Village were his family, his safe space, his home. And his presence brought out the best in this town; opening their days, their spaces, their minds, and their hearts to this person who lived his life in the moment, and who found true happiness in the day-to-day.

Gerald added a little joy and charm to all those who knew him, and those who did not, at least recognized the staple in our town. "He lived such a good life," said Michelle Cooper, a long-term staff member at Community Living. "Haliburton was so good to him. He was a very good man, and I don't think he would have any complaints."

## Haliburton parking meters' time expired

Council decided to cover as many as about 35 of the parking meters before their removal in October. Staff had also been asked to examine ways to enforce a two-hour parking time limit.

Charlene McConnell of Purple Door Pottery stands with some of her work during the first week of the Studio Tour Haliburton Highlands. /VIVIAN COLLINGS

Junior Boys Brechin Johnston and Evan Backus work together in the 5k race on a very hot day when the humidex was hovering near 30C. These conditions combined with tough hills and very little shade made it a challenging day for many runners who battled heat exhaustion. Evan finished 4th and Brechin 7th in a field of 54 runners. Erika Hoare ran a strong race on the Senior Girls 6k course, finishing in 8th as a first-year senior and Hannah Sharp was 53rd. Haiden Bird ran 29th in the 6k Senior Boys race. The athletes continued to work towards their OFSAA goals. /Submitted

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# November 2023 Year in Review

## HHSS field hockey team wins COSSA

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School girls field hockey team won the COSSA field hockey championship against Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School in Peterborough, which earned themselves a place to play against the province's best teams at OFSAA in Milton from Thursday, Nov. 2 to Saturday, Nov. 4.

## County hears first details of future Dysart commercial development

Haliburton County got a heads-up of a commercial development in Dysart.

Stephen Stone, the county's planning director, brought council a report for information about draft plans for a subdivision and a condominium at 5065 County Road 21.

The 3.67-hectare lot will accommodate five lots and a common access road. The five lots will be developed at some point for commercial uses.

Stone said the applications have been received and staff has deemed them to be complete.

## County chips in on CT equipment

HHHS asked county council to kick in $1-million toward the purchase of a CT scan, CT mammography equipment and the necessary hospital renovations to accommodate the equipment.

The total cost of the diagnostic equipment is $4.3-million.

Council was asked that the money be forwarded as soon as possible if the request was granted. Costs for design, installation, and the associated construction have already begun.

Council agreed to provide the requested money in two installments

## TOK announces termination of Haliburton/Toronto bus route

There will no longer be a public transportation option for those wishing to travel between Toronto and Haliburton as of Jan. 31, 2024.

TOK Coachlines announced the cancellation of the Haliburton to Toronto route in November after nearly 35 years of service due to decreased ridership and increased operation costs.

## Dysart keeps Sam Slick reference in park's name

Council decided when it met Nov. 28 to continue with the Sam Slick Park moniker despite calls to have it changed as a means to shed an association with a fictional racist and misogynist character written by the county's namesake.

Erin Lynch, the Cultural Resources Committee's chairperson, and Jim Blake, the committee's vice-chairperson, continued the lobby to have Sam Slick Park renamed in recognition of the Haliburton region's Indigenous people.

But council decided against renaming the park. What's more, council's resolution was that the Cultural Resources Committee cease the work to rename the park.

The annual Haliburton International Film Festival took place over the weekend at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion, with screenings of award-winning international films including a short-film written and directed by Haliburton-native, Kate Campbell.

Campbell's award-winning film *Boundless* was screened Sunday, Nov. 5 in front of a hometown crowd. The film was inspired by Campbell's grandmother, Betty Grepley, and her connection to the Second World War and the women Air Force pilots. /ADAM FRISK

Members of the 1129 Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment Royal Canadian Army Cadet corps marched in the parade and took the place of honour guard at the cenotaph during the Haliburton Remembrance Day ceremony on Saturday, Nov. 11. /VIVIAN COLLINGS

Above, Victoria Bingham (Marple Syrup) and Amy Brohm (Patsy Pine) host the Highlands Christmas Shindig in 2023.

Right, Santa waves to the crowd before heading back to the North Pole during the Haliburton Santa Claus Parade on Friday, Nov. 24. /VIVIAN COLLINGS

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# December 2023 Year in Review

## Duchene celebrates 1000 games

Matt Duchene had officially played 1000 games in the NHL, and with that milestone, he took the time to reflect on how he got to where he is. "Being from Haliburton has been a huge contributor to me making the NHL, and then getting to 1000 games," he said to the *Echo*. "I'm grateful to be from there for so many reasons."

The 32-year old from Haliburton was drafted third overall to the Colorado Avalanche in 2009, and made his mark in the NHL right off the bat. After eight years, Duchene was traded to the Ottawa Senators followed by the Columbus Blue Jackets briefly, before settling in Nashville between 2019 to 2023.

He played his 1000th game wearing a Dallas Stars jersey, where he landed in July of this year. And while Duchene is happy to be where he is, he can't help but look back on how far he's come. "Haliburton is such a hockey crazy town," he laughed. "Without my friends and family and our great community, I wouldn't be where I am today."

## County council keeps Danielsen as warden

Haliburton County council voted to stay its course and continue with its most familiar warden at the helm.

The upper tier council chose to return Algonquin Highlands Mayor Liz Danielsen as warden for another one-year term. She was elected over Minden Hills Mayor Bob Carter.

Danielsen has been elected to the warden's chair for five years, which is a Haliburton County record.

"I fully acknowledge that I've held the position for an unprecedented period of time," Danielsen said. "But then again these last few years have truly been unprecedented times."

During her tenure, the county implemented septic inspection programs and passed the Shoreline Preservation Bylaw.

## Dysart gives conditions for Farmers' Market return to Head Lake Park

Council decided to allow the return to Head Lake Park, provided the market's hours are changed to be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and that organizers charge vendors a fee per market day to be directed to the municipality for park repairs.

Highlanders were treated to a Highlands Festival Singers performance at the United Church on Sunday, Dec. 3, a one of two nights' performance. The ensemble performed traditional holiday music, with the help of the audience and youth choir. /ADAM FRISK

Above, Haliburton Highlands Secondary School drama club members have been rehearse their production of *Clue* in December. /VIVIAN COLLINGS

Left, the Red Hawks battled I.E. Weldon on December 14 in Haliburton. Despite a tough fight, the Hawks lost to Weldon 57-48. /TIM YANO

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# HHSS students take strides

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, with the support of the Haliburton Highlands Nordic Trails Association, hosted their first invitational ski meet since 2015 at Glebe Park on Wednesday, Jan. 17. The meet was attended by 94 skiers and facilitated by more than 20 community volunteers. The Red Hawk ski team of 15 strong shone on the slopes, capturing top place in several individual divisions and relays. The elementary skiers from the newly formed Haliburton Development Team showed their strength and skills and outpaced most skiers in the Novice High School division. /Photos by Shannon Walker, submitted by Karen Gervais

The Junior Boys relay team celebrates their victory. From left, Graham Backus, Brechin Johnson, Evan Backus and Winston Ramsdale.

Erika Hoare sends off Violet Humphries in the Senior Girls relay. Erika Hoare won the Senior Girls individual race and Violent Humphries the Junior Girls race.

Evan Backus captured top spot in Junior Boys, closely followed by brother Graham Backus in third.

Brechin Johnston gets off to a good start in the Junior Boys race. Brechlin placed seventh in his division, an impressive feat for a first-year skier.

Olivia Humphries tucks down a hill in the Senior Girls race, finishing second in this category.

HALIBURTON COUNTY HUSKIES

Home Game

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7 p.m.

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February, 15 at 7 p.m.

Downtown Haliburton's BIA:
Annual General Meeting

DOWNTOWN HALIBURTON

BIA Members are welcome to join us for the Annual General Meeting in the Meeting Room at the Dysart et al municipal building (135 Maple Ave)

# Hike Haliburton, an immersive winter experience

VIVIAN COLLINGS

*Editor*

Hike Haliburton participants snowshoe through Barnum Creek Nature Reserve during a hike last year. /Photo by Thom Lambert

Pack up your snowshoes and head over to Hike Haliburton's website - there are only a few days left to sign up for an expert-guided winter romp in the Highlands!

Of 12 hikes scheduled for the festival's winter edition on Saturday, Feb. 3, four are already full, and organizers say it's a year you won't want to miss.

"Imagine seasoned hike leaders, some naturalists, others storytellers, guiding eager participants through public and private properties, unveiling the hidden treasures of the Highlands," read a Hike Haliburton statement. "They share tales that bring the landscape alive, making it more than just a walk; it's an immersive journey into the heart of Haliburton's rich cultural history."

After 20 years of success with Hike Haliburton in the fall, "we thought snowshoeing in the winter would be just as fun," said Eric Casper, tourism assistant for the County.

Starting in 2020 and taking a couple years off during the pandemic, this will be the third year for the winter edition.

The organizing team over at the County have added a few new hikes along with some original favourites.

"A new one we have this year is led by the Algonquin Yeti Paddling Company. There are four in Haliburton Forest, and they were not part of it last year," said Casper.

There will be three held in the Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provinical Park, and one hike, Operation Get Home Safe, is being hosted by the local army cadet corps at the Haliburton Highlands Museum.

All are led by volunteers with expertise in their field, are of varying difficulties, and some are even pet friendly.

Angelica Ingram, the County's tourism manager, participated in the Bethel Heights Farm hike last year with her family.

"They have a hobby farm, so the animals were a destination on the hike. It was so great for kids. My girls loved it so much," Ingram said.

In addition to the listed hikes, Ingram shared some other happenings in the Highlands this weekend under the "Events and Happenings" tab on their website.

"We get a lot of winter enthusiasts that come to the area whether it's sledding, cross country skiing, or other hikers. We actually have a 3.5 kilometre snowshoe trail at Sir Sam's, but even though there is no guided leader to take you, it's open and people can do a self-guided tour there," Ingram said.

Other self-guided hikes include two at Abbey Gardens.

The Agnes Jamieson Gallery, Rails End Gallery and The Space in Haliburton have exhibits featured, and there's plenty of live music around town to listen to while you warm up after a day outside.

"This festival isn't just a tourist attraction, it's a lifeline for various organizations and businesses in the region," says the statement. "This festival isn't just about hikes, it's about fostering a sense of belonging, supporting local causes, and creating lasting memories."

All hikes are free of charge.

To sign up for a hike or learn more, visit winter.hikehaliburton.com/hike-registration.

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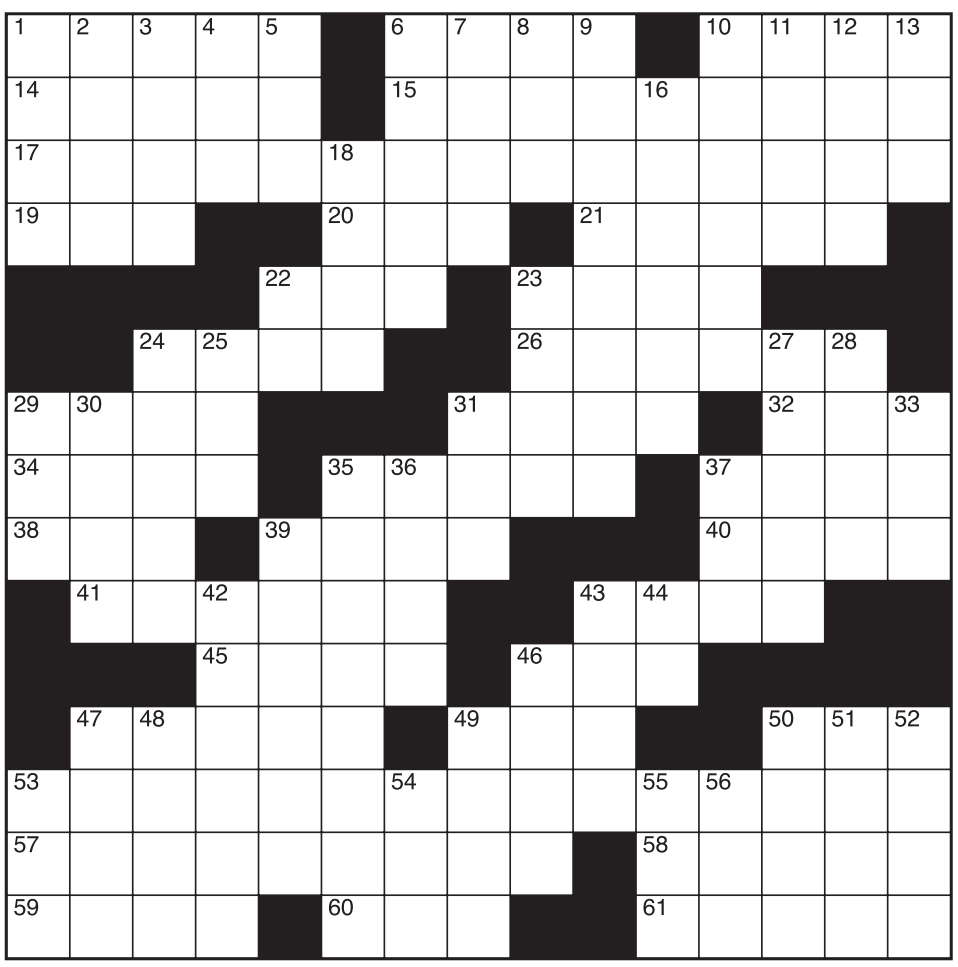

CLUES ACROSS
1. Become less intense
6. Variety of pear
10. Religion native to China
14. Type of tooth
15. Fitted out
17. Make every effort
19. Autonomic nervous system
20. Complete
21. Alternate name
22. River in France and Belgium
23. Miami's mascot is one
24. Turfs
26. Most cognizant of reality
29. Broad volcanic crater
31. Canadian surname
32. Satisfaction
34. Traitorous Greek mythological prince
35. Collide
37. Immune response
38. Feline
39. High opinion of one's own appearance
40. Thin strip to align parts
41. Containers
43. Convicted American spy
45. Breathe noisily
46. Taxi
47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
49. Swiss river
50. I.M.__, architect
53. Have surgery
57. Formal withdrawal
58. Dutch and German surname
59. Square measures
60. 2,000 lbs.
61. Degrade someone

CLUES DOWN
1. Siberian river
2. Blessing
3. Substitutes (abbr.)
4. Principle underlying the universe
5. Work unit
6. Yellow edible fruits
7. Gemstone
8. A place ships dock (abbr.)
9. Evergreen tropical tree
10. Reality TV star Richards
11. Nonflowering aquatic plant
12. Stakes
13. Antidiuretic hormone
16. Make warm again
18. Light beams
22. Lethal dose
23. Terrorist group
24. Kids love him
25. Naturally occurring solid
27. German surname meaning "man from Saxony"
28. Popular cuisine
29. Partner to cheese
30. Type of horse
31. __ Diego
33. Defensive nuclear weapon
35. Most shrewd
36. It may be for shopping
37. Midway between south and southeast
39. A stock of foods
42. The bindings of books
43. Swiss river
44. Megabyte
46. Sammy __, songwriter
47. Dutch colonist
48. Clare Booth __, American writer
49. Sun or solar disk
50. Popular type of bread
51. Transfers of money (abbr.)
52. Association of engineering professionals
53. Young womenÕs association
54. City
55. Niger-Congo branch of languages
56. Pointed end of a pen

*Answers on page 14*

# HCDC launches LIP once again

EMILY STONEHOUSE
*Staff Reporter*

If you're a not-for-profit in the community, this may be your time to receive a little extra support as you dive into your year ahead.

The Haliburton County Development Corporation (HCDC) has once again launched their annual Local Initiatives Program, or LIP for short. "This grant is all about what people need in the community, and some great ideas," said Heather Reid, the program and operations coordinator at HCDC. "We try to keep it broad so that it's open to as many organizations as possible."

The purpose of the LIP program is to support community economic development by funding unique projects that showcase the breadth of initiatives and ideas across the region. Last year, HCDC provided funding to organizations such as the Minden Food Centre, Abbey Retreat Centre, Canoe FM, Minden Pride, and the Kushog Lake Property Owners Association to name a few. "We usually receive between 25 to 30 applications," said Reid, "and we try to fund as many of them as we can."

Pulling from a pot of $60, 000 this year, the funding for the projects stems from the interest earned on loans HCDC provides to the community. "So we do charge interest on our loans," said Reid, "but then that money is all cycled right back into the community."

Aside from being a registered not-for-profit organization, there is really no rhyme or reason when it comes to who can apply for the funding. "The only time we had specific focus for the grant was when it was covid related, but now, anything goes," said Reid.

This includes performances, studies, community activities, gardens, and more. Reid also noted that there is no bias when it comes to organizations applying year over year. "As long as you have a creative project, that's all that matters," she said.

Reid understands that in the not-for-profit world, applying for grants can be a full time job. That's why she wanted to get the word out that HCDC is there to provide support throughout the entirety of the application process.

"You can reach out to us anytime," she said. "Most of the time, we do see the majority of applications before they come in. Then we can help tweak them where needed, and find the ways they are most likely to receive that funding."

The deadline to get full feedback on the application is March 5, 2024, with the final application deadline of March 11. If you are interested in applying, contact Heather Reid at hreid@haliburtoncdc.ca.

"The unique thing about the LIP program is that it can act as a catalyst for so many great community projects," she said. "It's all just about that really great idea."

# Dreaming of dance

EMILY STONEHOUSE
*Staff Reporter*

Dance should be for everyone.

That's why Skyline Dance Studio, located in the heart of Haliburton, launched their bursary program; to allow anyone who dreams of dancing to join in on the fun. "At Skyline, our mission is to create a family atmosphere where dancers of all ages feel safe to be who they are and express themselves creatively," said Allison Cox, the chair of the Skyline board.

Having opened their doors in October of 2022, Skyline works with seven instructors over the full season, and offers programs to over 200 local dancers. With registration increasing over 20 per cent since opening, it's clear that there was a drastic need for the programming in the county.

The studio offers both competitive and recreational classes in ballet, jazz, tap, contemporary, lyrical, acro, hip hop and musical theater. This year, they also added a "tumbling" class that mirrors exercises traditionally practiced in gymnastics classes.

For those under the age of five, Skyline runs ballet, jazz, and acro, plus "The Music Class", and Parent and Tot classes for ages one to four.

But the programming isn't just designed for kids. The studio also offers classes for adults and seniors, with regular pilates, tap classes for those 55 and up, and Zumba Gold classes for adults.

Skyline is a not-for-profit, and continues to rely heavily on the kindness and generosity of the community to stay afloat. They recognize that building a dance studio from scratch is no easy feat, and they continue to celebrate the community by means of thanks.

That's why they began to offer the bursary program; to find a way to give back to the community that they believe has held them up over the past year and a half.

"We believe each student has the ability to increase their physical, emotional, and intellectual well-being through movement," said Cox, "and we wanted to be able to ensure more students could be supported to join us, which is why this bursary program is so pivotal."

The bursary was made possible from a portion of the original founding sponsors, which was specifically set aside with the intentions of offering financial support down the road.

It offers $500 for a student between the ages of two and 18, andis open for anyone who has a passion for dance, but needs a little help financially to attain that dream.

To learn more about the bursary opportunity and to apply, reach out to info@skylinedancestudio.ca.

# HCFA flourishes through challenges

JEAN SCHLICKLIN TYLER

*Special to the Echo*

The Haliburton County Farmers Association (HCFA) continues to flourish in a climate of challenge. Major issues were discussed at the AGM Thursday Jan 18 hosted at the Castle Antiques Cafe. Having lost access to a large animal veterinarian for the county is the most difficult problem facing the farmers of Haliburton. With the different provincial ministries and provincial organizations working on issues in Agriculture, our county is not alone. The reduced number of graduating vets for large animal care, the change of regulations to access medical resources, the lack of vet technicians in the communities, emergency care of any kind and the loss of local abattoirs to process meat has become a crisis across the Province.

Minna Schleifenbaum was re-confirmed a second year as President of HCFA along with an active board of directors and participants in the association. Godfrey Tyler as the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) rep presented the information for the Northern Producer Animal Health Network (NPAHN) and introduced Jordan Miller of BFO as the two organizations working on the issues of the crisis from a provincial perspective. There are hopeful signs reported with money for vet incentive for any clinic applying with a new vet. The Veterinarian Assistance Program (VAP) is being reviewed by the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (OMNDM) with the issue of large animal vets being a crisis across the province. People are being urged to contact their MPP and other organizations involved in this crisis to bring solutions from the grass roots of our community.

The communications are growing with a dynamic leadership and the membership of HCFA. With community efforts, there is a table at the farm markets in the summer co hosted by BFO and HCFA giving free material and information about the local food providers and other groups involved in production. There is ongoing work for more clinics and educational tours with the support of the county tourism office to learn more about our food production. There will be a two day workshop that interested people can sign up for participation in April for the Environmental Farm Plan.

Our most exciting news is the connection with a new Veterinarian willing to come to the county on Fridays. When there is a group of people in need of a vet they may come for ongoing vaccines and medical check ups for farm animals. This builds a relationship between the vet and the caregivers for future critical care with the hope of participation in the VAP for the county. This is a win, win, win for everyone involved. Contact Minna Schleifenbaum or other directors for more details about membership and the future services for our community.

## Double OT win

The Haliburton County Huskies were against St. Michaels Buzzers and won 3-2 in second overtime on Saturday, Jan 27. The eventful game was won when the Buzzers were forced to switch goalies due to a potential injury, and the Huskies scored immediately. A collision sends a ref head over blades during Saturday's Huskies home game against the St. Michaels Buzzers. /TIM YANO Special to the *Echo*

Huskies forward Antonio Cerqua looks for a pass.

**Notice**
**(Applicant – Rab)**

**In the matter** of the *Municipal Act* and in the matter of a proposed By-Law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East to close, stop-up and convey certain portions of Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance for road along the shore of **Contau Lake**, more particularly hereinafter described.

**Notice Is Hereby Given**, pursuant to the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass at a virtual meeting on **February 13, 2024**, at 9:30 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

**Firstly:** Pt. Shore Road Allowance in front of Lot 16, Con 5, Township of Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Parts 1 & 2 on Plan of Survey19R-10904, made by P.A. Miller Surveying Ltd. completed June 22, 2023.

**Secondly:** Pt. Shore Road allowance in front of Lots 16 & 17, Con 5, Township of Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Part 3 on Plan of Survey 19R-10904, made by P.A. Miller Surveying Ltd. completed June 22, 2023. (Part 3 being the flooded portion to be retained by the Municipality of Highlands East).

**Thirdly:** Pt. Shore Road Allowance in front of Lot 17, Con 5, Township of Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Parts 4, 5, 6 & 7 on Plan of Survey 19R-10904 , made by P.A. Miller Surveying Ltd. completed June 22, 2023. (Parts 4 & 5 being the flooded portion to be retained by the Municipality of Highlands East).

The Plan of Survey is available to you for inspection by you making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or e-mail the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk prior to the public meeting.

Any person or his or her counsel, solicitor or agent who attends the virtual meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to make representations in respect of the within matter.

**And Take Further Notice** that if the public wishes to participate regarding the purchase of Part of the Shore Road Allowance please contact the Municipal Clerk.

**Dated** at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 23rd day of January, 2024.

**Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk**
Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
WILBERFORCE, ON K0L 3C0
**rrogers@highlandseast.ca**
(705) 448-2981

## CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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** We thank all who apply; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.**

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**Call To Enter** - The Tour De Forest summer art tour is looking for a variety of participants in both studio artists and guest artists. Please download application from haliburtontourdeforest.com. Deadline is February 16 2024. For more information contact Lori at **705-754-0444** or **tourdeforestjurying@gmail.com**

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## 650 OBITUARIES

*In Loving Memory of*

### June Tripp (nee Dummitt)

*Passed away peacefully at Hyland Crest Senior Citizen's Home, on Wednesday, January 24, 2024.*

Beloved wife of the late Murry R. Tripp. Dear mother of Cathy Colliver, Cindy Persaud, Bill Tripp, Steve Tripp (Linda), and Stan Tripp (Glenda). Loving grandma of Sara, Nikki, Amber, Stacie, Kerri, Travis, Matthew, Zach, Ashlee, Mike, and Victoria, and great grandma to Daimon, Logan, Faith, Hailey, Dylan, Isaac, and Daxton. Dear sister of Shirley, Faye and Lew. Fondly remembered by her nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Road, P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0 on Friday, February 2, 2024 from 11:00 am until the time of the Service to Celebrate June's Life at 1:00 pm. Reception to follow in the Monk-Cray Family Centre at the funeral home. Spring Interment at Evergreen Cemetery.

Memorial Donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation or to the CNIB would be appreciated by the family.

*www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com*

Community FUNERAL HOME

### Mary Johnson (nee Purkis)

*(Resident of Haliburton)*

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Mary Elizabeth Johnson (nee Purkis ) on January 23, 2024 in Haliburton Ontario. Mary was the loving wife to Mike, mother to Taylor, Travers, Bryant and Marrin. Nana to 11 grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and mother-in-law to Susan, Isabelle, and Laura.

Mary was a dedicated teacher and educator who loved working with children with learning challenges. Travel was a true passion for Mary, exploring many countries and cultures with a desire to learn and embrace everything new.

She was always eager to get involved in the community and help others whether it was organizing the Ontario Seniors Games, President of the Canadian Federation of University Women, the Haliburton Curling Club and many others.

Mary loved her home on Redstone Lake relaxing on the dock, protecting her flowers and tomatoes from hungry deer, playing bridge, and teaching her grandchildren to have the best manners.

**Celebration Of Life**

A Celebration of Mary's life will take place in May. As an expression of sympathy, donations to Haliburton Highlands Health Services would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

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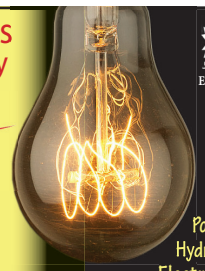

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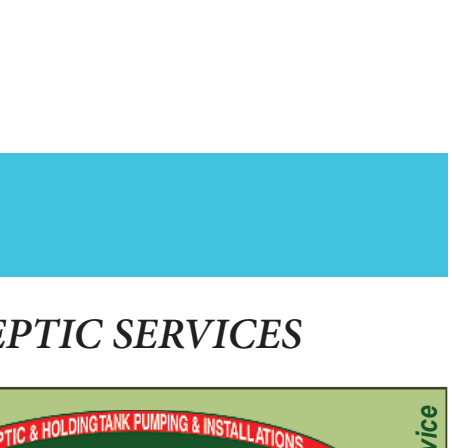

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# HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO

THE VOICE OF THE HIGHLANDS

5c PER COPY

HALIBURTON, ONTARIO THURSDAY, JANUARY 28TH, 1965

THIS WEEK'S PRESS RUN—2062

Established in 1882 as the Minden Echo & Haliburton Recorder


## Syl Apps To Open Minden Winter Carnival

Syl Apps, former Maple Leaf hockey great, will open the 1965 Minden Winter Carnival at the Minden Centre this Saturday at 2 p.m.

Following the official opening, there will be a figure skating show featuring championship skaters from Toronto Skating Clubs.

Participants will include Patsy Lang, who was 1964 Bantam Champion of the Metro Toronto Speed Skating Club; Kaselle Pattenick, who is Jr. Ladies' Champion of the Leaside Skating Club; June Lang, who won a Silver Medal at the Western Canada summer Skating Competitions held in Edmonton; and Doug Middleton, who was a finalist in the Central Ontario Competition.

This year's carnival begins this Friday evening in the Minden Centre with broomball, minor hockey, the Carnival Queen contest and a Moccasin Dance.

On Saturday evening there will be a hockey game, figure skating, and entertainment by Ernie Bruce and his clown band. A full program is scheduled for the arena Sunday afternoon with juvenile hockey, a 'Hootenanny' featuring a Toronto folk-singing group and finals of the broomball tournament.

### Monster Parade

1 p.m. on Saturday is the time to be on Minden's Main Street to see the annual parade held in connection with the 1965 Minden Winter Carnival.

The parade which was a highlight of last year's Carnival will be headed by Ernie Bruce and his clown band.

Gordon McManus, parade chairman, reports there are more entries than last year and everything indicates the parade will be bigger and better than ever.

—Photo by Alan R. Capon

**Linda Suter of Haliburton is shown driving a Hus-Ski Snow Mobile. She is promoting the Snow Vehicle races which will be held at Mountain Lake near Minden in connection with the Minden Winter Carnival to be held this week-end, January 29, 30 and 31.**

### Snow Vehicle Rally To Be Highlight Of Minden Carnival

A snow vehicle rally is to be held at Mountain Lake this Saturday and Sunday in connection with the 1965 Minden Winter Carnival.

Don Berry, chairman of the rally, says "these events are open to all, and we are expecting there will be a large number of machines from both near and far."

(Continued on Back Page)

### Fire In Jeep

LINDSAY (ENS) — A Jeep owned by Bonnie View Lodge, Haliburton, sustained damage estimated at $100 when it caught fire Monday. Police said the fire started as the Jeep was being driven back to the lodge from Haliburton. The driver escaped uninjured.

—Photo by Alan R. Capon

**Pictured above is Wendy Martin of Minden holding the Minden Winter Carnival doll. Wendy is busy boosting the Minden Winter Carnival which will be held this week-end, January 29, 30 and 31.**

## Top Junior Teams To Play At Minden Carnival

Hockey fans who will be attending the Minden Winter Carnival at Minden this week-end are in for some real fast hockey. On Saturday night at 8 p.m. the two top leaders in the Central Ontario Junior 'C' hockey league, Bobcaygeon and Lindsay, will be battling it out for sixty minutes of the finest hockey to be seen anywhere.

Anyone who has seen these two teams in action will tell you that this is one game that you don't want to miss. That's this Saturday night, January 30 at the Minden Arena.

On Sunday, January 31, there's more hockey when the high flying Haliburton Highlanders will meet the Lindsay Juveniles at 3 p.m. The Highlanders, who have players from all parts of the County, have only lost one game this season.

### Fur Sale To Be Held On Saturday

The Haliburton Trappers' Association are holding a Raw Fur Sale in the basement of the Orange Hall at Haliburton this Saturday, January 30. The Trappers' Association would like to extend an invitation to everyone to come out and see this sale in operation.

## Haliburton Defeat Bobcaygeon

The Highlanders showed their strength Saturday night, January 23rd as they crushed Bobcaygeon to the score of 11-3 at the Minden Arena. Ron Cummings came up with another big night with four goals and two assists.

Team captain Garry Gartshore grabbed two assists as the Haliburton defence boarded up the blue line. The forwards skated well and have become to work as a team, and if Ab's voice holds out we might have a hockey team.

Fred Sawyer and Marcel LaPage shared the goal chores and both turned in fine performances.

The boys have had only two home games and judging by the crowds, we believe the boys are going to be well received come play-off time.

The referees were Aubrey Gostlin and Paul Yearwood.

### Weather Report

**January 20th to 27th**

Maximum temperature 34 degrees January 18th; Minimum

### William Cowan New Warden Of Haliburton County

MINDEN (ENS) — William Cowan, reeve of Stanhope Township for the past two years, was named warden of Haliburton Provisional County at the opening of the January session here Tuesday.

Reeve Cowan and Roy Brohm, Reeve of Haliburton, were the only two in the race for the warden's chair.

The Stanhope reeve has been on township council for the past seven years. He served as deputy reeve for two years before becoming reeve.

Stanhope had its last county warden in 1955 when C. P. Rogers held the position.

County council resumed its business session last week. It

### Post Office Hours

Due to the change in the schedule of the despatch and receipt of mail the following Business and Box Lobby hours will be in effect as of January 18, 1965 at the Haliburton Post Office:

Wicket Service: 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday thru Saturday, (NO) half day closing Wednesday.

Box Lobby: 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday thru Saturday.

Mail received from Lindsay 10:00 a.m. Daily; Mail despatched for Lindsay 4:30 p.m. Daily.

### Elgin MacDuff Accident Victim

On Monday, January 18, Elgin MacDuff of Gooderham, was working atop a load of logs in the vicinity of Kennesis Lake and in order to avoid what he thought might be a serious accident, he jumped from the top of the load breaking his leg in three places.

At present he is confined to his home with his leg in a cast where he will be for some time. As he had just purchased a new truck and figured to pay for same by a profitable winter's work, the accident comes at a bad time.

## Construction On Home At Minden To Commence Soon

Andeen Construction Company have been awarded the contract for the building of a new Senior Citizens' Home which will be built on a site overlooking the village of Minden.

Efforts to obtain a home for those who reach an age where they need care and the companionship of others has been underway for a long time. Such a residence is greatly needed in this county and we hope to see a start made on the project as soon as possible.

While the new home will not contain everything that the original committee had hoped for and will cost more money than anticipated, it will be quite adequate to supply the care and comfort required by those who have reached that time in life where they are unable to maintain themselves in their own homes.

### To Charge Six

LINDSAY (ENS) — Provincial Police at Haliburton said recently that charges will be laid against six persons following a fracas at Harcourt Community Centre last Saturday. They said two of the persons are from Haliburton and the remainder from the Tory Hill - Gooderham area.

### Congratulations

Mr. A. E. Wall, Vice-President in charge of sales for Confederation Life recently announced that Mr. Garnet O. Graham had won the honour of being the branch leader for the Peterborough Division for 1964.

Mr. Graham attained this achievement by being a member of the Company's Half-Million Dollar Producer Section.

## HALIBURTON NEWS LETTER . . .

The Canadian National Railways have made a fine move in the interests of public safety in extending their yard limits to the second crossing at Haliburton. If we are informed correctly, this action will mean that trains coming and leaving the village in this area will be travelling at a speed not exceeding five miles per hour. If motorists approaching this crossing will limit their speed likewise, the chances of accidents will be very remote.

* * *

A fine spirit of Christian unity was displayed in Haliburton on Sunday morning when the members of St. George's

A faulty furnace made the holding services in the Anglican Church impossible and an invitation was extended to members to worship with the congregation of the United Church. The invitation was graciously accepted and the spirit of co-operation by the ministers, church officers and congregations is striking proof of the spirit of christian fellowship that exists in churches of this community.

* * *

We are informed that an effort is being made to re-organize the band of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129. We understand that the band will be one

this area. We will be keeping those interested in the revival of this organization with further information when it is received.

Our Canadian Legion has always rendered strong support to their band financial and otherwise, and they are prepared to do so in the future.

* * *

As we make ready to go to press we have just learned of the sudden passing of Coyle Bruce Downer who owned and operated a jewellery store in this village. The late Mr. Downer died on Sunday last at his home in Lakefield in his 58th year. Requiem Mass was held at St.

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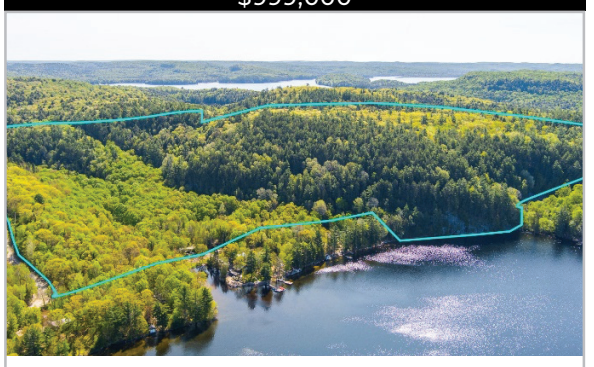

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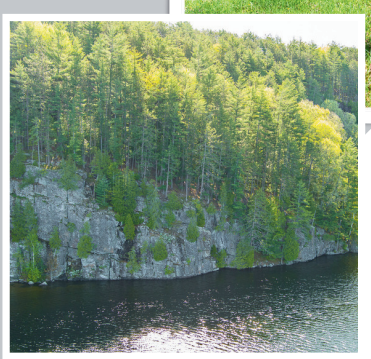

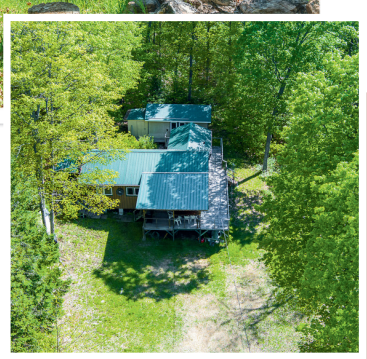

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